

It takes a community ...



Standing Tall

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The Calgary Youth Justice Society Newsletter

March 2010



“Wise teachers impart knowledge; inept ones impose theirs”

~ Leonard Roy Frank



Message From Tammy McCorkell

The 14th Annual Leadership Awards presented by Volunteer Calgary recognized The Calgary Youth Justice Society in three categories. A special Congratulations goes out to Morris Johanson, Chairperson for the Bowmont YJC. Morris was nominated for the “Heart of Calgary Award” with numerous references provided by a variety of organizations that he’s contributed to over the last 10 years. He has truly committed his life to volunteering, routinely putting in over 40 volunteer hours a week since retiring. The CYJS Volunteer Program was nominated for the “Leader in Volunteer Engagement Award.” Our program is very unique because we have just 3 paid staff members who support the amazing efforts of over 300 volunteers. The program is fortunate to have such dedicated people who give of their time to work with youth in conflict with the law. We congratulate and thank all the volunteers for their hard work. Lastly, I was nominated for the “Leader in Volunteer Management Award” and considered myself blessed to be included in that category with many of the people I respect & admire in this profession. Although we did not receive any of the Awards, we consider it an honour to have been thought of and nominated for these awards.

Note from The Editor

I have the distinct impression that 2010 is going to be a banner year for our city’s Youth Justice Committees. As you’ll read further in this Spring Edition, numerous exciting developments are in store for us. One of the biggest to date is the recent support given to us from the Calgary Airport Authority to bring the *Development & Community Outreach Project* to the next level.

Speaking of next levels, the Board and Staff of the Calgary Youth Justice Society are always keeping an eye on the horizon for upcoming opportunities. For instance, our new volunteer management database will help us assist Committees with more targeted recruiting and track various aspects of YJC functions like training, volunteer hours and certifications. DOORs may just represent a paradigm shift in Calgary’s EJS Program delivery. We also have a very bright practicum student who’s fresh eyes and ideas are sure to bring great things.

Next levels... new heights... ...and the vision required to achieve them. These are what this year will be all about.



Anthony B. Scott, B.Sc, BA

Director, Development and Community Outreach

Editor, Calgary Youth Justice Society Newsletter

Upcoming Training

Our commitment to offering the best training and continuing education continues. New Volunteer Training sessions are:

- Part 1—Thursday June 10
- Part 2—Thursday June 17th
- Part 3—Thursday June 24th

As always, training is held at the Calgary Youth Attendance Centre—3850 Manchester Road SE.

Refresher Training has been scheduled for April 8th. Be sure to keep an eye on the Events Schedule page of our website for updates and new developments.

http://calgaryyouthjustice.com/volunteer_training.php

A Practicum Student Comes Aboard

Zahra Shamji made the Calgary Youth Justice Society her agency-of-choice for tightening her focus of youth in conflict with the law. A Bachelor of Social Work student, Zahra’s area of interest lies in youth restorative justice and she requested our help in finding opportunities to see it in practice. To that end, she’ll be with us until the end of May, participating in the various aspects of Extrajudicial Sanctions by connecting with Youth Justice Committees and networking with our community partners and stakeholders to gain a sense of the resources available for our young people.

Introducing Zahra

Hello Everyone!! As Anthony mentioned, I am on the final stretch of completing my Bachelor of Social Work. I am completing my senior practicum and have chosen a community-based program to do so. My heart lies in working with youth and I found myself intrigued with the concept and underlying philosophy that entails the Youth Justice Society and the Extrajudicial Sanctions Program. I have spent many years working with youth in conflict with the law but in a very different way. I am employed at Wood’s Homes and have spent a lot of time supporting my clients through their hardships and ensuring that they completed their sanctions. My time here will provide me with the insight as to the functionality of the program and the value that comes when community members come forward to support the younger generation that is in need of guidance and support. I have met several volunteers and Chairpersons already but I very much look forward to meeting many more of you. Thank you for such a warm welcome!

The Calgary Airport Authority 'Opens DOORs' for Youth Justice Committees

With the recent donation of laptop computers, several Youth Justice Committees may now be outfitted with the technology required to use DOORs from their meeting places. The web-based database can be accessed using either wireless signals or Ethernet connections to the Internet.

As demonstrated at the March 23rd Chairs' /Community Resource Meeting, using DOORs during the panel process can significantly reduce the time needed to deliberate on appropriate Agreement conditions, thereby increasing the time spent talking with the young people. Additionally, panel members can be assured they have the most up-to-date information and forms needed for the Extrajudicial Sanctions Agreements.

Many thanks to the Calgary Airport Authority Board Chairman, President & CEO and Director of Information Technology & Telecommunications (IT&T) for getting us started on our latest adventure.

Message from the Executive Director

I can't resist using the metaphor of roots to describe our work with young people. I came across an interesting fact, this time about bamboo. The first several years of tending the growth of bamboo requires much attention be given to develop its strong root structure. This yields very little initial satisfaction; as progress above ground appears slow, with little to show for the gardeners efforts. The payoff occurs years later, when it can shoot up 20 metres in less than 4 months. Investing in our young people by cultivating their strengths (or roots) provides a strong foundation for growth that we will likely not see in the short time that we spend with them. But they will be stronger having had your influence in their lives, just wait...and see.

Courage does not always roar. Sometimes, it is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, "I will try again tomorrow".

~ Unknown



Summer Chair's/Resource Meeting

The next meeting is set for June 15th, 2010. As usual, the Chair's meeting will begin at 6:00.

Venue and presenter details to come in the near future.

Casting Mana

As part of the Calgary Youth Justice Society's ongoing efforts to enhance our city's Youth Justice Committee program, the *Opening DOORs* series is coming to your Committee. The 90-minute workshop will introduce Committee members to the Database of Opportunities and Resources - what it does, what it will do for us and what it means for our young clients.

Opening DOORs began with a focus group who met at the Calgary Youth Attendance Centre. Attendees were given an in-depth look at the database through the eyes of both User and the Moderators to familiarize the group with the logic behind the project. Numerous opportunities were taken to create fictional scenarios, with the highlight of the evening being a full test-drive using a mock-interview. Feedback offered has been incorporated into the program by way of final tweaks.

Beginning April 13th, the series will be brought to the Youth Justice Committees interested in using this newly available method to identify appropriate consequences and referrals.

Youth Justice Committee Chairpersons will be contacted to arrange dates, times and locations for bringing the series to their members. Stay tuned...

The Magic of Partnerships

Feeling Included

The Calgary Youth Justice Society has established a relationship with Immigrant Services Calgary (ISC) and is proud to announce access to *Youth Inclusive Neighbourhoods* as a referral option.

The YIN program provides preventative measures against gang involvement and other at risk behaviours with a focus placed on Immigrant and refugee youth ages 13-16.

Sessions are conducted once per week for approximately 1 to 1.5 hours held at ISC and include skill building workshops such as effective communication as well as one to one support for youth. The program also includes recreational activities to encourage positive peer relationships. Referred youth cannot be known gang members or have been in CYOC.

Two forms are required – the Referral Form from the referring YJC and the Application form to be submitted by the young person.

Simran Grewal is the Program Coordinator and may be contacted at: 403-444-1505 or via email at: simrang@immigrantservicescalgary.ca

Seeking Board Members

Looking for a rewarding experience? Calgary Youth Justice Society Board of Directors is adding to their dynamic team! To find out more about this opportunity to learn, grow and make a difference with this dedicated group of people, please contact Denise Blair very soon at 403-261-9861 or email: dblair@calgaryyouthjustice.com

Mark your Calendars

The Calgary Youth Justice Society's *Annual General Meeting* has been set for May 26th, 2010. It will be held at La Joie de Vivre and will begin at 6:00. Members and volunteers interested in attending may contact Anthony B. Scott to reserve a seat. Please do so by May 19th.

